Introduced by Senators Baruth, Balint, Bray, Campion, Chittenden, Clarkson, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker, Lyons, McCormack, Pearson, Perchlik, Ram, Sirotkin and White

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes; firearms; prohibition on possession at certain locations

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to prohibit the possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings.

An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 4023 is added to read:

§ 4023. POSSESSION OF FIREARMS; PROHIBITED LOCATIONS

(a) A person shall not possess a firearm at a prohibited location.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned for not more than one year or fined not more than $1,000.00, or both.

(c) This section shall not apply to a firearm possessed by:

(1) a federal law enforcement officer or a law enforcement officer certified as a law enforcement officer by the Vermont Criminal Justice
Training Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 2358, for legitimate law enforcement purposes, whether the officer is on or off duty; or

(2) the United States or a department or agency of the United States or by any state or by a department, agency, or political subdivision of a state.

(d) As used in this section:

(1) “Firearm” has the same meaning as in subsection 4017(d) of this title.

(2) “Prohibited location” means:

(A) a childcare facility as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 3511, provided that a childcare facility shall not include a family day care home that provides care on a regular basis in the caregiver’s own home;

(B) a hospital as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 1902; or

(C) a publicly owned building that is currently in use for the performance of essential government functions.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.